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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 23rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 8 November 2016, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Drobnjak ..... (Croatia)
later: Mr. Pools (Vice-Chair) ..... (Belgium)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Organization of work

1. **The Chair** said that he would waive the 24-hour rule in accordance with rule 120 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and he took it that the Committee wished to extend the deadline for the submission of the remaining draft proposals on decolonization to Tuesday, 8 November.

2. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 52: Comprehensive review of special political missions (*continued*) (A/C.4/71/L.6)

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.6: Comprehensive review of special political missions

3. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiolea** (Mexico), introducing draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.6 also on behalf of the co-facilitator, Finland, said that the text provided special political missions with greater clarity and relevance, and focused on the actions of prevention, mediation and peacebuilding. It proposed a shift in emphasis towards building sustainable peace and preventing conflict through development, measures to combat poverty and inequality, and access to justice and institutions. The draft resolution was the first step towards full implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/262 and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016), and would enable the Organization to implement solutions covering political, security, development, human rights and humanitarian dimensions.

4. Changes had been made to the text adopted the previous year in order to strengthen the parts relating to the participation of women and incorporation of a gender focus in special political missions; the need for a longer-term perspective and sustainable peace to be reflected in the formation, review and drawdown of peacekeeping operations and the mandates of special political missions; and the issue of adequate funding for those missions.

5. **The Chair** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications and that Angola, Austria, Denmark, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Palau, Portugal and Thailand had joined the sponsors.

6. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.6 was adopted.*

Agenda item 49: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (*continued*) (A/C.4/71/L.7, A/C.4/71/L.8, A/C.4/71/L.9 and A/C.4/71/L.10)

Agenda item 50: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (*continued*) (A/C.4/71/L.11, A/C.4/71/L.12, A/C.4/71/L.13, A/C.4/71/L.14 and A/C.4/71/L.15)

7. **Mr. Djani** (Indonesia), introducing the four draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 49 (A/C.4/71/L.7, A/C.4/71/L.8, A/C.4/71/L.9 and A/C.4/71/L.10) and reviewing their provisions, said that they reflected fundamental principles and positions regarding the rights of Palestine refugees and the international community's commitment to alleviating their plight until a just solution had been achieved, as well as its strong support for the humanitarian work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which was making a vital contribution towards regional stability and efforts to fulfil the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He expressed the hope that the draft resolutions would again receive the overwhelming support of Member States.

8. **Ms. Rodríguez Abascal** (Cuba), introducing the five draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 50 (A/C.4/71/L.11, A/C.4/71/L.12, A/C.4/71/L.13, A/C.4/71/L.14 and A/C.4/71/L.15), said that Israel's incessant violations of human rights and international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the occupied Syrian Golan had caused a worsening human rights crisis. In violation of its legal obligations as an occupying Power in accordance with international law, Israel continued its policy of systematic aggression, provocation and collective punishment, which was causing widespread suffering among the Palestinian population and further destabilized the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Its illegal settlement campaign, which included land confiscation and appropriation of natural resources, was fragmenting the Palestinian territory and severely undermining the possibility of achieving a two-State solution. She expressed the hope that Member

States would once again stand firmly behind such crucial draft resolutions and would work to defend the principles of international law, ensure that the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence were realized, and reach a just, lasting and peaceful solution to the conflict.

9. **Ms. Meitzad** (Israel), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that the draft resolutions submitted under both agenda items 49 and 50 represented another step backwards for the Palestinian people, for the Israeli people and for the cause of peace. The draft resolutions would neither improve the lives of those on either side nor promote a return to meaningful direct, bilateral dialogue. As in previous years, they were one-sided resolutions that ignored the many factors underlying the complex reality on the ground. Unperturbed by facts, their authors had selectively quoted from documents to present a distorted picture, conveniently absolving the Palestinian Authority of its role in creating the current situation and completely overlooking recent positive developments. The main beneficiaries of those developments were the Palestinian Authority and people but, for some reason, those developments had been omitted from resolutions supposedly aimed at helping them.

10. The draft resolution on the Special Committee on Israeli Practices (A/C.4/71/L.11) exemplified the continuing waste of valuable United Nations resources on that entity's specialty of creating obstacles to understanding. Although the Temple Mount — known as Har Habayit in Hebrew — was the holiest site in the Jewish faith and a place sacred to all three Abrahamic religions, the two resolutions mentioning the site made no reference to its Jewish or Christian connection. That deliberate omission attested to the persistent refusal of the Palestinians and their supporters to recognize the Jewish people's historical connection to that holy site and to the city of Jerusalem. Such unyielding opposition to recognizing the rights of others illustrated Palestinian intolerance of other religions and heritages. Nevertheless, historical truth would ultimately prevail over any political vote.

11. Technical explanations regarding agreed language could not excuse a vote in favour of a resolution that intentionally distorted history and disregarded Christian and Jewish heritage and beliefs. The insistence that no religion other than Islam had any link to a place so rich in the history of people of many faiths was a form of exclusion consistent with the ongoing incitement by Palestinian leaders in connection with the Temple Mount. By contrast, the State of Israel recognized the rights of all believers of all faiths and was working to preserve the status quo.

12. Member States had repeatedly given in as the Palestinians continued to advance the one-sided, selective approach that characterized their general mode of operation. But it was time for Member States to demand that the Palestinians cease denying the rights and history of others, for that people's own sake and in the name of truth, tolerance and coexistence. Israel had publicly reaffirmed its support for the two-State solution on countless occasions at home and abroad. It was time for the Palestinians to state a clear intention to return to the negotiating table without preconditions. They must decide whether they wanted to change the reality on the ground by working towards peace in Jerusalem and Ramallah, or continue devoting resources and energy to delivering empty statements in New York.

13. Her delegation would vote against the draft resolutions, which were nothing more than a cynical political exercise conducted at the expense of efforts to address the real issues that stood between Israelis and Palestinians on their joint path to create a better reality for both peoples. A vote against the draft resolutions constituted a vote for tolerance, mutual respect and the establishment of direct bilateral negotiations to end the conflict once and for all.

14. **The Chair** said that the draft resolutions submitted under agenda items 49 and 50 had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.7, Assistance to Palestine refugees

15. **Ms. Giles** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Austria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

16. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Paraguay, United States of America.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.7 was adopted by 159 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.8: Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

18. **Ms. Giles** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh, Indonesia and Maldives had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

19. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Paraguay, Togo, Vanuatu.

20. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.8 was adopted by 156 votes to 6, with 6 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.9: Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

21. **Ms. Giles** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh, Indonesia, Maldives and Switzerland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

22. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Paraguay, Vanuatu.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.9 was adopted by 158 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.10: Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

24. **Ms. Giles** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Austria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

25. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Paraguay, Togo, Vanuatu.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.10 was adopted by 156 votes to 6, with 6 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.11: Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

27. **Ms. Giles** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh and Maldives had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

28. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire,

Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

29. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.11 was adopted by 86 votes to 7, with 71 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.12: Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

30. **Ms. Giles** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh, Indonesia and Maldives had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

31. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Paraguay, Rwanda, Togo.

32. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.12 was adopted by 155 votes to 6, with 6 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.13: Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

33. **Ms. Giles** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Austria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

34. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Australia, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Paraguay, Rwanda, Togo.

35. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.13 was adopted by 153 votes to 6, with 7 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.14: Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

36. **Ms. Giles** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Bangladesh and Maldives had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

37. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab

Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Paraguay, Rwanda, Togo.

38. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.14 was adopted by 151 votes to 7 with 6 abstentions.*

Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.15: The occupied Syrian Golan

39. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Honduras, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Palau, Paraguay, Rwanda, Togo, Tonga, United States of America, Vanuatu.

40. *Draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.15 was adopted by 153 votes to 1, with 13 abstentions.*

41. **Mr. Komada** (Slovakia), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that while the European Union member States had followed a coordinated voting pattern on the draft resolutions just adopted, the European Union as a whole had not adopted a legal definition of the term "forced displacement", which was used in some of the draft resolutions. Furthermore, the use of the term "Palestine" could not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and was without prejudice to the individual positions of member States on the issue and, therefore, to the question of the validity of Palestine's accession to the international instruments referred to in the draft resolutions.

42. Some of the draft resolutions just adopted also referred to the ongoing tensions regarding the holy places in Jerusalem. The European Union was concerned about the worrying developments and recurrent violent clashes at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount. Fully acknowledging the special role of Jordan as custodian of the Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, the European Union called for the understandings that had been reached regarding the status quo of the holy sites of Jerusalem to be upheld in order to reflect their historical significance to all three monotheistic

religions. The terminology used in the draft resolutions did not imply a change of the European Union stance on the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount.

43. **Mr. Zalyalov** (Russian Federation) said that the Russian Federation traditionally voted in favour of the draft resolution on Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. However, its vote on draft resolution A/C.4/71/L.14 on that subject did not signal a deviation from its fundamental position that it was unwise to artificially single out specific groups of people, such as human rights defenders, and to give priority to their problems to the detriment of the rest of the population. The preambular paragraph on human rights defenders applied only in the context of that draft resolution and exclusively to the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

44. **Mr. Mounzer** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the overwhelming support for the draft resolutions just adopted under agenda items 49 and 50 sent an unambiguous message to Israel to end its occupation of all the occupied Arab territories and to cease immediately all violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. As illustrated by the vote on the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan (A/C.4/71/L.15), the attempt by Israel to annex the Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, in accordance with Security Council resolution 497 (1981). Israel had compounded its violations of international law by enacting the absurd Golan Heights Law, which decreed the annexation of the region — a dangerous provocation — and openly sponsoring the takfiri terrorism of the Nusrah Front, which had kidnapped United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) soldiers and later been expelled by them.

45. Israel was the only State to have voted against the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan and had voted against the entire set of draft resolutions under agenda items 49 and 50, demonstrating its blatant disregard for international consensus, the United Nations and international law. The Syrian delegation appealed to those few delegations that had abstained from voting on the draft resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan to join the international consensus and vote in favour when it came before the General Assembly. Any hesitation to condemn occupation and forced annexation would send a dangerous signal to lawbreakers, suggesting that the law of the jungle had replaced the law and that Israel alone was exempt from flouting the law.

46. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for the State of Palestine) said that the Committee's adoption of the draft resolutions submitted under agenda items 49 and 50 resoundingly reaffirmed the rights of the Palestinian people, including Palestine refugees; the imperative of respect for humanitarian and human rights law; and the fundamental legal principles relevant to the core issues and the search for a just, comprehensive, lasting and peaceful solution, which, regrettably, remained elusive in the light of Israel's ongoing violations and intransigence. The almost fifty years of military occupation by Israel had caused deteriorating human rights conditions and rising humanitarian, political and security instability. The action just taken by the Committee underscored the role that the United Nations could and must play in safeguarding human rights and upholding international law.

47. Her delegation welcomed the recognition of the indispensable role played by UNRWA and the contribution of its programmes to the well-being, development and protection of the Palestine refugees, as well as its contribution to regional stability against the backdrop of ongoing conflict and turmoil. It was grateful for the generous support of donor countries and welcomed the efforts to address the Agency's recurrent, debilitating funding shortfalls.

48. It was a positive step that the mandate of the Special Committee on Israeli Practices had been renewed and her delegation was grateful for that Committee's efforts to raise international awareness of the systematic human rights violations perpetrated by Israel as the occupying Power. Her delegation welcomed the reaffirmation of the international consensus on the Fourth Geneva Convention's applicability to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and on the illegality of the Israeli settlement campaign and other grave breaches that were sabotaging what little opportunity remained for achieving peace under the two-State solution.

Agenda item 58: Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (*Territories not covered under other agenda items*) (*continued*) (A/C.4/71/L.17)

Draft decision A/C.4/71/L.17: Question of Gibraltar

49. **The Chair** said that the draft decision had no programme budget implications.

50. *Draft decision A/C.4/71/L.17 was adopted.*

Agenda item 121: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/C.4/71/L.16)

Draft decision A/C.4/71/L.16: Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the seventy-second session of the General Assembly

51. *Draft decision A/C.4/71/L.16 was adopted.*

Completion of the Committee's work

52. *Mr. Poels (Belgium), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

53. **The Chair** said that the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) had completed its work for the main part of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at noon.